

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough****Project Title:****Fairbanks North Star Borough - Steese Aerial Ladder Fire/ Rescue Truck****State Funding Requested: \$ 300,000****House District: 7 - D**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Replace the 1981 aerial ladder truck used by the Steese Fire Service Area with a modern fire fighting vehicle.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$675,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$300,000	09				
Local Funds					\$375,000	09
Total	\$300,000				\$375,000	

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Replace 1981 Aerial Ladder Truck.

Escalating maintenance & repair costs, extended down times & potential for faster response with newer truck. Total cost is \$675.0.

Project Timeline:

Research for purchase is underway; expenditure will occur in spring of FY09.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

FNSB / Steese Fire Service Area Commission

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Dave Nebert

Phone Number: 457-1670

Address: 585 Steele Creek Road, Fairbanks, AK 99712

Email: nebert@gci.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Steese Fire Service Area Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough
585 Steele Creek Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
(907) 457-1508**

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JAN 29 2008

January 2008

REPLACEMENT OF TR-62

The Steese Volunteer Fire Service Area is seeking State grant funds to replace our 1981 aerial ladder truck, TR-62, after an extended service life of more than 27 years. Escalating maintenance and repair costs, extended down times, the potential for faster incidence response, and firefighter safety concerns provide the basis for this request.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

TR-62 is a 1981 50 foot aerial ladder truck purchased and placed into service by the Steese Area Volunteer Fire Service Department in 1981 to provide fire protection to area residents. TR-62 is a service truck which is used for rescue, forcible entry, roof attack. Due to many years of service, the truck has exceeded its useful service life. Recent frequent repairs reveal that age has taken a toll. The water way, which allows water to be delivered from the top of the extended ladder, remains out of service (now over 5 months) awaiting parts. The company which built the vehicle has been sold several times since 1981 and has contributed to the problems in obtaining parts. Pump capacity has been reduced from a rated 1500 GPM to 1250 GPM due to wear. The truck has a small diesel engine which limits road speeds to less than 10 MPH when responding up steep service area hills, with even slower speeds on the steepest sections. In addition, TR-62 only has two seats, with only lap belts for safety. *This past week the automatic transmission failed and we are awaiting a cost estimate for repairs.*

The Steese Fire Service Area has an increasing number of large houses and a number of commercial structures (35) that require a tall aerial ladder truck. ISO ratings will be affected without a functional aerial response truck.

OBJECT JUSTIFICATION

Without the assistance of state grant funds the replacement of this engine is not financially possible by our organization. Our funds have been committed to the replacement of a new firehouse on Farmer's Loop Road, the acquisition of two rapid response tankers through a 5 year lease/purchase agreement, and a new truck to be added in 2008 (using a combination of Service Area and State funds) to replace a 28 year old pumper. When managing the replacement of apparatus we consider:

SERVICE LIFE of fire apparatus is normally considered to be 20-25 years. TR-62 is now in its 27th year of operation in an extreme weather environment, with rough roads, and a high use, primarily due to training.

NEW TECHNOLOGY allows cleaner burning, environmentally efficient engines with increased horse power, and a more rapid response (over 30 MPH up steep hills), critical in fire fighting. TR-62 has only lap belts whereas new apparatus will have 3 point safety harnesses and air bags with seats for four firefighters. New apparatus have safer, anti-locking braking systems and carry equipment loads more efficiently. The replacement truck will have safety interlocks to minimize the likelihood of a tip-over with the 65 foot ladder when extended. Firefighters are our most valuable asset so we strive to provide them the latest and best available safety equipment.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS are important. The cost of a new truck is high, but continuing to repair an aging truck becomes increasingly expensive and does not provide the latest, rapid response capabilities for our service area. Accelerating maintenance costs and longer down time from mechanical failures point to the need to replace.

CONCLUSION

The Steese Volunteer Fire Service Area is requesting \$450,000 (2/3 of the estimated total cost) in State funds to replace our aging aerial truck. The service area will provide matching funds of up to \$225,000 (1/3). The replacement will allow rapid responses with new, safer technologies. Firefighter safety features will include ABS anti-locking brakes, air bags, 3 point safety harnesses, automatic chains, and a safety inter-lock for the extension ladder. Thank you for considering this worthwhile investment in community safety.

David L. Nebert



Commission Chair, Steese Fire Service Area